

WFYI Collects SPJ Award for Environmental Issues Coverage

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 21, 2007

Contact: Ron James (765) 427-1505 /

Execdir@wrhcc.IN.gov

WFYI productions recently accepted top honors, for the Corridor's *The Wabash: Life on the Bright White River* video documentary, from the Indiana chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists in the category for Best Coverage of Environmental Issues.

WFYI, WFWA, and many other PBS stations around the midwest, have periodically re-broadcast *The Wabash: Life on the 'Bright White' River*. Check local listings or, better yet, write or call your local PBS station and request a broadcast time!

Documentary Explores River's Ecology, History and Impact on Indiana's Culture

During the early portion of the eighteenth century, this regal river served as the principal route connecting Quebec fur traders with the New

Orleans marketplace. Indians, French traders and early American colonists once called its majestic waters home by establishing settlements along its banks. By the turn of the nineteenth century, farmers relied on flatboats and steamboats to move their goods to marketplace by way of this legendary Indiana waterway.

For more than two centuries, the Wabash River has served as a vital conduit for trade, travel and settlement in the Midwest. The Wabash, which derives its name from the bright white limestone that once shimmered through its waters, embodies a rich heritage of Hoosier folklore and early American exploration and discovery.

The Wabash: Life on the 'Bright White' River — a 57 minute documentary that takes viewers on a 500 mile, 19 county adventure, examines the delicate balance that exists between the Wabash River and the people who live along its banks.

Produced in partnership between FYI Productions and the **Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission**, ***The Wabash: Life on the 'Bright White' River*** combines stunning imagery of this magnificent waterway with interviews from historians, geologists, archeologists, conservation officers, fishermen, journalists and the Hoosiers who reside along its banks. Gary Harrison, an Emmy award-winning public television producer, spent nearly two years conducting extensive travel along the entire length of the Wabash, exploring the river's ecology, history, and impact on Indiana's culture and its people for this film.

"The Wabash River — Indiana's largest body of water, containing the longest unimpeded waterway east of the Mississippi — constitutes a fascinating chapter in our nation's history. From the corridor's impact on the Hoosier landscape to its role in influencing the lives of the people who live along it, this is truly a story worth telling," said Ron James, executive director of the **Wabash**

River Heritage Corridor Commission. A brief preview of the film can be viewed online, by visiting www.wfyi.org/wabash.asp.

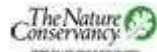
As a trusted catalyst for lifelong learning, WFWA Public Broadcasting engages and enriches its community through distinctive programs and services. For more information on WFWA's programs, educational outreach services, and for program previewing for your consideration of broadcast, visit www.wfwa.org. ***The Wabash: Life on the 'Bright White' River*** was first uplinked to the Indiana Broadcast Network on February 3, 2006 and DVD production for dissemination was begun soon thereafter.

The **Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission**, a citizen driven commission of the State of Indiana, protects and enhances the natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources of the corridor by encouraging sustainable development, stimulating public interest and supporting the establishment of common goals and cooperative actions of the people and communities within the Corridor. For more on their programs, click on: www.in.gov/wrhcc/.



Produced by  in cooperation with the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission. Production funding for *The Wabash* is provided by


The Wabash Valley Association, 



The Nature Conservancy in Indiana,
The Rivers Institute at Hanover College



The Hoosier Environmental Council

and Hoosier Energy. 



WFWA Public Television's broadcast of ***The Wabash: Life on the 'Bright White' River*** was initially run concurrently with an art exhibit at the Indiana State Museum. "[River Odyssey: Two Artists Follow the Wabash](#)". This exhibit, which showcases the work of acclaimed Muncie artists, David Dale (pastels and oils) and Jim Faulkner

(watercolors) is wrapping up its tour of galleries across Indiana headed toward its final showing in Carmel August 23, 24 and its auction August 25, 2007. More than a decade ago, these two Hoosier artists set out to capture on canvas the splendor of the 28 Midwest counties linked to the 500 miles of the Wabash River. The fruition of their work is reflected in this spectacular 100+ piece exhibition.